



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,474	08/14/2001	Badri N. Krishnamurthy	6301/Consilium/DV	6441

32588 7590 04/09/2003

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.  
2881 SCOTT BLVD. M/S 2061  
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

EXAMINER

STEVENSON, ANDRE C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2812

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/928,474	KRISHNAMURTHY ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Andre' C. Stevenson	2812	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on August 14, 2001 is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

**Attachment(s)**

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## Details Action

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1 through 8 & 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1).

Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), for **Claim #1**, a computer-implemented method for managing experiments relating to automated processing technology, comprising the steps of: (A) receiving an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation from a base process capable of operating in an automated environment (**Column 7, lines 12 through 24, lines 44 through 52**); (B) obtaining an approval of the experiment order; (C) translating and storing at least a portion of the experiment order into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment (**Column 4, lines 14 through 33, Column 6, lines 27 through 37**); and (D) causing the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment, in accordance with said processing data, (Column 7, lines 56 through 59).

Considering now **Claim #2** a method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining step further includes the steps of storing data defining the experiment order (**Column 7, lines 12 through 24**), distributing the experiment order to a plurality of users, obtaining changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and receiving tile approval for the experiment order from at least one user, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Column 11, lines 20 through 52).

With respect to **Claim #3**, a method of claim 1, further comprising the step of attaching documents to the experiment request, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 10, lines 62 through 67, Column 11, lines 1 through 11).

Furthermore, **Claim #4**, a method of claim 1, further comprising the step of publishing information indicating a state change of the experiment request, responsive to a document attached to the experiment request or to a change in state of the experiment order, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 10, lines 62 through 67, Column 11, lines 1 through 11).

With respect to **Claim #5**, a method of claim 1, wherein the translating step further includes the step of receiving the processing data, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (Figure 9, line 2 through 28).

With respect to **Claim #6**, a method of claim 5, wherein: the experiment produces at least one test product and at least one production product; and wherein the processing data includes an indication of the base process, the changes to the base process, and a split-off of a control set; and wherein the split-off of a control set produces the at least one production product according to the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

Furthermore, **Claim #7**, a method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving and storing the results of the execution of the experiment, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

Considering now **Claim #8**, a method of claim 1, wherein the automated environment produces semiconductor technology, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1) (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

With respect to **Claim #25**, a computer-implemented method for managing experiments relating to semiconductor technology, comprising the steps of A) receiving an experiment order, the experiment order including at least some deviation from a

Art Unit: 2812

base process capable of operating in an automated environment; B) obtaining an approval of the experiment order; C) translating and storing at least a portion of the experiment order into processing data suitable for implementation by said automated environment; and D) causing the experiment to be executed in conjunction with at least some portion of said base process by the automated environment in accordance with the processing data; E) wherein the obtaining step further includes the steps of storing data defining the experiment order, distributing the experiment order to plurality of users, obtaining changes to the experiment order from at least one of the users, and receiving the approval for the experiment order from at least one user; F) wherein the experiment produces at least one test product and at least one production product; and wherein the processing data includes an indication of the base process and the changes to the base process produce the at least one test product, is taught by Nulman (U.S. Pat. No.6306695 B1), (column 7, lines 9 through 30, lines 33 through 40, column 9, lines 38 through 45, Column 11, lines 20 through 52, column 12, lines 16 through 30).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' Stevenson whose telephone number is (703) 308 6227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Art Unit: 2812

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Niebling, can be reached on (703) 308 3325. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308 7724.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956. Also, the proceeding numbers can be used to fax information through the Right Fax system;

- TC2800 Official Before-Final RightFAX - (703) 872-9318
- TC2800 Official After-Final RightFAX - (703) 872-9319
- TC2800 Customer Service RightFAX - (703) 872-9317

Andre' Stevenson

Art Unit 2812

03/30/03

  
John F. Niebling  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800